



**GOVERNOR'S
COMMISSION ON
SUICIDE PREVENTION**

MARYLAND

**Governor's Commission on Suicide Prevention Meeting
May 20, 2020 • 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.**

Commission Members on Phone

Robert Anderson	Department of Juvenile Services
Edward Bartlinski	Police, Local Corrections, or Fire and Rescue
Lynda Bonieskie	Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
Shameka Burke	LGBTQ Community
Dana Burl	Department of Veterans Affairs
Amanda Celentano	Department of Aging
Janel Cabbage (Chair)	Behavioral Health Administration
Mariam Diallo	High School Student
Johanna Dolan	Substance Use Recovery Community
Christina Drushel-Williams	Governor's Office for Children
The Honorable Adelaide Eckardt	Member of the Maryland Senate
Monica Guerrero Vazquez	Hispanic/Latino Community
Russell Himmelberger	Active/Former Member of the Armed Forces
Kevin Johnson	Faith Community
Amy Kulp	Suicide Prevention Group
Jennilyn Landbeck	Family Member
Georgette Lavetsky	Deputy Secretary Public Health
The Honorable Eric Luedtke	Member of the House of Delegates
Cynthia Macri	Asian American/Pacific Islander Community
Lynne Muller	Maryland State Department of Education
William Powell	National Organization for People of Color Against Suicide
Dustin Richardson	American Indian Community
Kirsten Robb-McGrath	Department of Disabilities
Dana Sauro	Young Adult Aged 18-25
Susan Schwarten	Survivor of a Suicide Attempt
Haley Taylor	Maryland Addictions Directors Council
Jennifer Treger	Mental Health Association of Maryland
Holly Wilcox (Vice Chair)	Academic Community

Workgroup Lead

Lanny Berman	Suicide Fatality Review Workgroup
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Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Staff

Kristin Abrams	Behavioral Health Administration
Natalie Miller	Behavioral Health Administration
Indu Radhakrishnan	Behavioral Health Administration



Welcome and Introductions

Commission Chair Cabbage welcomed all attendees to the Commission meeting. Commissioners introduced themselves.

Development of an Online Map of Safe Gun Storage Sites in Maryland for Suicide Prevention

Cassandra Crifasi, PhD, MPH; Diana Bongiorno, MD/MPH Candidate; and Eric Kramer, MD/MPH Candidate, of Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health presented to the Commission about their project to replicate Colorado's safe storage map site map for Maryland. Their team contacted gun shops, firearm ranges, and law enforcement agencies to inquire if they offer temporary, voluntary safe storage. Sites that offer temporary safe storage and agreed to participate in the project are included on the map, which can be found on mdsafegunstorage.org. There are currently 29 gun shops/ranges and three law enforcement agencies included on the map. Sites that did not agree to participate in the project at this time were concerned about liability, insurance, having enough space to store firearms, and other logistics. The map will be updated regularly as new sites agree to participate.

Approval of March 18, 2020 Minutes

No corrections were made to the minutes. Minutes were approved.

Breakout Groups/Workgroup Meetings

Commissioners broke out into groups to meet in workgroups.

Training Workgroup Update - Commissioner Treger

The Training Workgroup has focused on obtaining feedback from primary care practices about current suicide prevention training and implementation practices, barriers, and needs. The Workgroup is in the process of developing a survey for primary care offices to obtain this feedback and will review training-related data collected from behavioral health professionals. The Workgroup also plans to collaborate with the Means Safety Workgroup to obtain feedback from local health officers and collect information on local gatekeeper trainings.

Means Safety Workgroup Update - Commissioner Kulp

The Means Safety Workgroup aims to partner with local health officers and local health improvement coalitions to implement means safety initiatives at the local level. In order to promote the Counseling on Access to Lethal Means training, the Workgroup plans to develop promotional content for social media and other outreach channels. The Workgroup will also collaborate with the Training Workgroup to provide information about the training to the Maryland Primary Care Program. The Workgroup is also collaborating with Maryland's Veterans Affairs, local health departments, and gun owner groups to promote safe storage and disseminate gun locks. The Workgroup will also raise awareness of the Extreme Risk Protection



Orders (ERPOs) by supporting a statewide ERPO stakeholder working group and disseminating ERPO materials, including a toolkit.

Data Workgroup Update - Commissioner Lavetsky

The Data Workgroup has shifted its focus to improving the reporting of race/ethnicity for Native American suicides, which are often coded as another race or ethnicity. The Workgroup plans to reach out to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and other providers of suicide data to hire about inquire about their methodology for coding race/ethnicity. The Workgroup has also reissued an updated data packet using 2017 data from the Maryland Violent Death Reporting System (MVDRS) and will develop an infographic using this information. A data packet using 2018 MVDRS data is on hold due to the outbreak of COVID-19. The Workgroup will also begin geocoding suicide deaths and tracking suicides to understand any trends that may be related to COVID-19. The Environmental Public Health Tracking Portal will also be updated in the coming months with information and data about suicide.

State Suicide Prevention Plan

The State Plan Review Team has been updating the draft of the 2020 State Plan. They are also developing a document to accompany the State Plan with specific action items and performance measures to achieve each goal and objective listed in the plan. They will provide Commissioners with the draft of the plan and the accompanying document to review prior to the next Commission meeting.

BHA Updates

The Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) has hosted several virtual trainings since the COVID-19 pandemic began, including *Taking Care of Your Mental Health during COVID-19*, which had over 300 attendees; *Evidence-Based Response to Suicidal Crisis*, which had 72 attendees; and *Extreme Risk Protection Orders: A Health Intervention for Preventing Firearm Suicide*, which had 95 attendees. BHA is also in the process of applying for two grants: one from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to provide a supported care transition model for suicidal adults who have recently been discharged from a hospital, and one from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to provide selected interventions to high-risk populations. Maryland's Helpline has also received significantly more contacts during COVID-19. Compared to February 2020, the Helpline received 77% more total contacts and 218% more suicide-related contacts, 45% more calls and 240% more suicide-related calls, 74% more chats, and 390.5% more texts in March 2020.

Public Comment on U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Draft Research Plan

The U.S. Preventative Services Task Force is seeking public comment on a draft research plan to screen for depression, anxiety, and suicide risk in youth and adolescence. The deadline to submit public comments is May 27.



The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 pm.

The next Commission meeting will be held on July 15, 2020 from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm.